Amendments to the Claims

1. (Original) An immunopotentiator for mammals, which comprises as an active ingredient a nucleic acid containing a special nucleic acid base, a derivative thereof or a plasmid having the nucleic acid containing the special nucleic acid base.

2. (Original) The immunopotentiator as claimed in claim 1, wherein the special nucleic acid base is at least one selected from the group consisting of 8-oxoguanine, 8-oxoadenine, 2-oxoadenine, 5-hydroxyuracil, 5-formyluracil, 5-formylcytosine, 8-nitroguanine, thymine glycol, cytosine glycol, hypoxanthine, oxanine, pyrimidine dimmer, O^6-methylguanine and O^4-methylthymine.

3. (Original) The immunopotentiator as claimed in claim 1, wherein the special nucleic acid base is a microbial nucleic acid-specific modified base.

4. (Original) The immunopotentiator as claimed in claim 3, wherein the microbial nucleic acid-specific modified base is at least one selected from the group consisting of N^6-methyladenine, 5-hydroxymethyluracil and 5-hydroxymethylcytosine.

5. (Original) The immunopotentiator as claimed in claim 3, wherein the nucleic acid containing the microbial nucleic acid-specific modified base is a nucleic acid having a base sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4.

6. (Currently amended) The immunopotentiator as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, which further comprises as an active ingredient a nucleic acid containing a microbial nucleic acid-specific non-methylated CpG sequence or a plasmid having the nucleic acid containing the microbial nucleic acid-specific non-methylated CpG sequence.

7. (Original) The immunopotentiator as claimed in claim 6, wherein the nucleic acid containing the microbial nucleic acid-specific non-methylated CpG sequence is a nucleic acid having the base sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

8. (Currently amended) The immunopotentiator as claimed in ~~any of claims 3 to 7~~ claim 3, wherein the microbe is a virus or a bacterium.

9. (Original) The immunopotentiator as claimed in claim 8, wherein the bacterium is Escherichia coli.

10. (Currently amended) A process for producing an inflammatory cytokine, which comprises administering the immunopotentiator as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1 to cultured cells to enhance an immunoactivity of the cultured cells and produce the inflammatory cytokine.

11. (Currently amended) A process for producing an inflammatory cytokine, which comprises simultaneously administering to cultured cells the immunopotentiator as claimed in ~~any of claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 and 9~~ claim 1 together with a composition comprising as an active ingredient a nucleic acid containing a microbial nucleic acid-specific non-methylated CpG sequence or a plasmid having the nucleic acid containing the microbial nucleic acid-specific non-methylated CpG sequence to further enhance an immunoactivity and produce the inflammatory cytokine.

12. (Currently amended) Cultured cells producing an inflammatory cytokine, to which the immunopotentiator as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1 is administered to enhance an immunoactivity.

13. (Currently amended) Cultured cells producing an inflammatory cytokine, to which the immunopotentiator as claimed in ~~any of claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 and 9~~ claim 1 together with a composition comprising as an active ingredient a nucleic acid containing a microbial nucleic acid-specific non-methylated CpG sequence or a plasmid having the

nucleic acid containing the microbial nucleic acid-specific non-methylated CpG sequence are simultaneously administered to further enhance an immunoactivity.

14. (Currently amended) The cultured cells as claimed in claim 12 ~~or 13~~, which are derived from mammals including humans.

15. (Currently amended) A method for enhancing an immunoactivity of mammals, which comprises administering to mammals the immunopotentiator as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1 to enhance an immunoactivity of mammals.

16. (Currently amended) A method for enhancing an immunoactivity of mammals, which comprises simultaneously administering to mammals the immunopotentiator as claimed in ~~any of claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 and 9~~ claim 1 together with a composition comprising as an active ingredient a nucleic acid containing a microbial nucleic acid-specific non-methylated CpG sequence or a plasmid having the nucleic acid containing the microbial nucleic acid-specific non-methylated CpG sequence to further enhance an immunoactivity of mammals.

17. (Currently amended) Non-human mammals to which the immunopotentiator as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1 is administered to enhance an immunoactivity.

18. (Currently amended) Non-human mammals to which the immunopotentiator as claimed in ~~any of claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 and 9~~ claim 1 together with a composition comprising as an active ingredient a nucleic acid containing a microbial nucleic acid-specific non-methylated CpG sequence or a plasmid having the nucleic acid containing the microbial nucleic acid-specific non-methylated CpG sequence are simultaneously administered to further enhance an immunoactivity.

19. (Currently amended) The non-human mammals as claimed in claim 17 ~~or 18~~, which are mice.